

SECRET

January 11, 1959

Dear Foster:

You will recall that current U.S. Policy Toward Germany provides:

"Although it is not now propitious for the United States to advance major alternatives toward achieving German unification, the United States should give continuing consideration to the development of such alternatives (which may be later required by developments in either West Germany or the USSR or both) with a view to the long-run solution of the unification problem." (NSC 5803, Par. 44)

In approving this policy, the President directed that the Departments of State and Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly make the continuing study required by paragraph 44 of NSC 5803, reporting the results of such study to the Council, through the NSC Planning Board, as appropriate and prior to July 1958. (NSC Action No. 1858) At the Council meeting on June 19, 1958, you presented orally an interim report on the results of the continuing study.

As a result of Planning Board discussion yesterday, it was agreed that a further report to the Council on the results of the continuing study might be very valuable, in the light of developments with respect to West Germany, Berlin and the USSR since the June 19, 1958 report.

In addition, from a reading of the reports of your press conference yesterday, I have the impression that you may feel that the time is now more propitious for discussion of possible alternatives towards achieving German unification.

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Accordingly, I should like to suggest that, in consultation with Secretary McNamara and General Twining, you may wish to further report to the Council on the results of the continuing study of German unification alternatives provided for in paragraph 44 of NSC 5803.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Gordon Gray

Gordon Gray  
Special Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

Honorable John Foster Dulles  
Secretary of State

cc: Secretary of Defense  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Honorable Gerard C. Smith  
Honorable John N. Irwin, II  
Rear Admiral C. D. Triebel, USN

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